

Report to: Schools Forum

Date of Meeting(s): 12th May 2022

Subject: Permanent Exclusion contribution

Report of: Colette Dutton – Director Children and Families

Contact Officer: Mark Rotheram – Strategic Finance Manager
Anthony Meehan – Group Finance Manager

Summary: To seek approval to continue to apply a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of pupils.

Recommendation(s): For Schools Forum to agree the continuation of existing arrangement in the event of a permanent exclusion.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?* Contained within the report

*What are the **staffing** implications?* n/a

Risks: n/a

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2018 Schools Forum agreed to the introduction of a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of a pupil. This is in addition to the recovery of the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) funding for the pupil. This was agreed following earlier consultation with the secondary sector.
- 1.2 In view of the time elapsed since this was initially approved, it was felt appropriate that a further report should be brought through Schools Forum to seek agreement for the continuation of this arrangement.

2. Summary of contributions/funding recovery

- 2.1 The value of the contribution currently amounts to a one off **£4,000** for each pupil permanently removed off roll and referred to alternative provision. This is the equivalent amount the DFE propose should be allocated should a permanent exclusion review be held as a contribution towards the cost of alternative provision if the child should not return to the school.
- 2.2 In addition to this contribution, the basic entitlement (AWPU) funding is recovered from the school/academy on a pro-rata basis. The values for 2022/23 are as follows:

| Phase | Value |
|-------------|--------|
| Primary | £3,235 |
| Key Stage 3 | £4,561 |
| Key Stage 4 | £5,140 |

- 2.3 In 2021/22 a total of £549,000 was received into the high needs block in respect of the AWPU recovery and £4,000 contribution for permanently excluded pupils. This in turn offsets a proportion of the costs associated with the alternative provision which is commissioned for the pupil. It is also used to cover the cost of tutoring we need to put in place whilst a child's placement is being considered i.e. a delay in starting at the PRU or a delay in a school admitting a pupil. Currently the cost of an alternative provision place at the LA's main provider is £17,441 (place and top up funding). In 2021/22 the total spend on alternative provision (including our main provider, other AP and tutoring) totalled c£3.5m, albeit some of this cost relates to medical needs and intervention places.
- 2.4 If this income was not received this would further increase the deficit on our High Needs block which would result in a need to generate further efficiencies and/or increase contributions from elsewhere (such as the schools block).

When initially approved, schools agreed that the contribution would be made in order to reduce the impact of all schools facing a higher contribution when they do not or rarely use the alternative provision.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are asked to approve the continuation of the current arrangements whereby a school contribution of £4,000 is made to the cost of alternative provision where a pupil is permanently removed from roll. This is in addition to the AWPU recovery.
- 3.2 That this agreement and the value of the recovery/contributions are communicated to all schools/academies in the primary and secondary sector.